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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PHONE 734-0200
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COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201



**PALMETTO
VETS GAZETTE**

CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
GOVERNOR
BILL SAMS
DIRECTOR

VOL. IV, JULY - SEPT. 1992

HOYT B. HILL, JR. MEMORIAL ISSUE OF THE PALMETTO VETS GAZETTE

In memory of Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., a dedication ceremony was conducted on May 19, 1992 at the Richard Michael Campbell State Veterans Nursing Home, near Anderson, South Carolina, memorializing the main Courtyard in his honor.

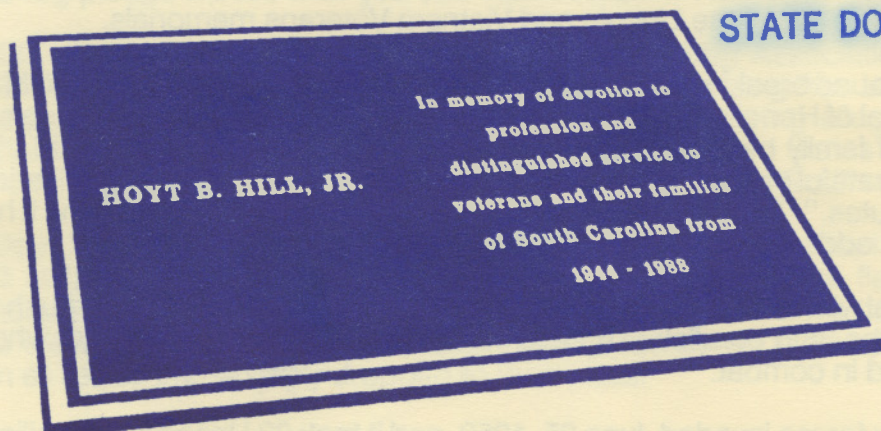
Mr. Hill was born in Lake City, South Carolina, June 27, 1920 and graduated from Lake City High School. In 1941, he received his bachelor's degree from Clemson University. Mr. Hill served as an Army Officer during World War II with the 126th Infantry, 32 Infantry Division in New Guinea. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star for his WW II service. He was also a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto - the highest presentation the State of South Carolina can bestow upon an individual. Mr. Hill was retired medically from the U.S. Army in November of 1943 and became employed with the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs in May 1944, where he served as a Claims Representative, Assistant Director and retired as Director on June 30, 1988 after 44 years of loyal, faithful and dedicated service to the veterans, widows and orphans of South Carolina.

The inscription on the monument is certainly most fitting.

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STATE DOCUMENTS



SCDVA NEWS

June 17, 1992 marked the first duty day for the newest member of the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs team. Michael L. Johnson has come aboard to handle the important task of organizing and running our fileroom. Michael comes to us from South Carolina Educational Television. He is married and resides in West Columbia. He served three years in the U.S. Army and has been in the Army Reserves for 13 years, currently assigned duties as a drill sergeant.

" WELCOME ABOARD"

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

With the close of the 109th General Assembly in June, the following bills were passed and signed by Governor Campbell:

H.4239 - Amended Section 25-11-20 so as to allow the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans, along with The American Legion, to make a recommendation to the Governor for the appointment of a Director for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.4682 - Amended Section 56-3-1150 so as to provide free vehicular registration to former prisoners of war for leased vehicles as well as those owned by the former prisoner of war or the surviving spouse.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION NEWS

Most of the major service organizations have elected new state officers for the upcoming year. The following is a list of the new Commanders and Adjutants:

American Legion

Charles W. Smith(Commander) B.L. Black(Adjutant)

AMVETS

Roy L. Massey(Commander) Harold F. Slawson(Exec. Director)

Disabled American Veterans

Emanuel Poston, Jr.(Commander) David H. Berry(Adjutant)

Veterans of Foreign Wars

John A. Buck(Commander) Melvin Emore(Quartermaster)

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

On June 14, 1992, President Bush used a gold plated shovel to break ground for the erection of a memorial which will be on a 7.5 acre site at Independence Avenue and Daniel French Drive in Washington, DC, near the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans memorials.

During the ground breaking ceremony, the President was assisted by retired Marine Gen. Raymond Davis, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean Conflict. President Bush spoke to about 5,000 veterans and family members attending the outdoor ceremony. He said, "To our Korean War veterans, a grateful nation thanks you for what you did. For stopping totalitarianism, the entire free world still salutes." The President later went on to say, "The length of time it has taken for this day to arrive only adds to the depth of our gratitude."

This memorial will honor the 1.5 million Americans who fought the war to push North Korean forces back above the 38th parallel. An estimated 33,629 Americans, 467 of whom were from South Carolina, died in combat.

North Korean forces invaded June 25, 1950, and it took 22 United Nation allies three years to fight the war to a cease-fire on July 27, 1953.

TWENTY THREE PATRIOTIC WORDS

This year marks the Pledge of Allegiance's 100th anniversary. Its centennial underscores the pledge's original intent. The historic words first appeared in *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. James Bailey Upham, the circulation chief, wanted to promote patriotism among public school children. He envisioned a special flag-raising ceremony to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. "What all the school children say in unison... must be a sort of pledge of allegiance to the flag. It must be so stirring that it will live long after this one occasion."

Unable to meet his own high standards, Upham urged Francis Bellamy, an associate, to try and write the pledge. As an August breeze wafted into the windows of his Boston office, Bellamy's pen scratched out words that would be recited by schoolchildren for the first time on October 21, 1892.

Thirty years after the pledge was printed, in 1923, Upham's family contested Bellamy's authorship, prompting Bellamy to write of the events surrounding the creation of the patriotic verse:

"It began as an intensive communing with the salient points of our national history, from the Declaration of Independence onwards; with the makings of the Constitution;...with the aspiration of the people."

Bellamy recalled that "allegiance" was the byword of the Union during the Civil War. "I pledge allegiance to my flag..." He went on to explain the meaning behind the rest of the pledge. "The flag stands for the Republic. And what does...the Republic, mean? It is the concise political word for the Nation - the One Nation which the Civil War was fought to preserve...indivisible, as used to repeat in their Bellamy believed always defend the and justice for all." He hear the pledge. "The words of American When they were said

I pledge allegiance to my Flag
and to the Republic for
which it stands; one Nation
indivisible, with Liberty and
Justice for all.

Webster and Lincoln great speeches." Americans would doctrines of "liberty called Upham in to words were the old history and evolution. aloud, they seemed

to have a resonance..." Upham was pleased; "You've done a bigger thing tonight than you know. These 23 words express the dream I've had for a year. They sum up the long movement to educate children to love of country by means of the school flag. I can't help thinking that this flag pledge will live after you and I are dead."

On May 18, 1939, 47 years after its first publication, the U.S. Flag Association concluded that Francis Bellamy was the pledge's author. Since then the wording has been changed. To eliminate the possibility that foreign born people might be swearing allegiance to their native flag, the phrase "my flag" was changed to "the Flag of the United States" in 1923. The words "of America" were added in 1924, and in 1954, the words "under God" were included.

On Columbus Day, 1892, the pupils, hands to their sides, in ordered ranks, faced a flag of 44 stars and 13 stripes. At the principal's signal, every student gave the flag the military salute and repeated together, slowly, the pledge of allegiance. At the words, "to my flag" with right hands extended, palms upward toward the flag, remaining in this position till the end, whereupon all hands immediately dropped to their sides.

BLIND REHABILITATION

If you are or know of a U.S. veteran who has been declared legally blind, there is potential eligibility for the Blind Rehabilitation Program located in the VA Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. It is a thirty bed inpatient program serving ten states in the southeast. For more information, contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Visual Impairment Services Coordinator or Social Work Service.

MILITARY CLAIMS

By law, a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD) can only be reviewed on the basis of clemency. The Discharge Review Boards (DRB) are prohibited from considering the propriety of the discharge, even though the applicant believes that the Court Martial leading up to the discharge was unfair, or that a mistake of law or other error occurred.

In determining the case on the basis of clemency, the DRB looks at, but is not limited to, the following: nature of the offense; length of time since discharge; record of community service and employment; conduct; educational achievement; family relationships; and letters of character or recommendation.

Although the law allows an applicant to apply for a change of discharge on the basis of clemency anytime after discharge up to 15 years, a good rule of thumb to follow is to not apply less than 5 years from date of discharge. This allows the opportunity for the applicant to demonstrate continuing, positive contributions to society, thus increasing the possibility of a favorable decision.

RADIATION CLAIMS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has given notice of the opportunity for readjudication of certain claims for service connected disability and death benefits based on alleged ionizing radiation exposure in military service resulting from atomic weapons testing or the atomic bombing of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan. This opportunity is made pursuant to a recent order of the court in *NARS vs Derwinski*, No. C-83-1861-MHP, a case filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. This opportunity is available only to class members in this case who elect to have their claims readjudicated with the assistance of an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the state where he or she practices. Requests for readjudication of affected claims must be received by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs before June 25, 1993. For further information, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, this agency or a County Veteran Affairs Officer.

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